

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LYON 00048 061715Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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R 061510Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL LYON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1110
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRABOURG

UNCLAS LYON 0048

E.O. 11652 :N/A
TAGS : PINT FR
SUBJECT : 1978 ELECTIONS : DUBEDOUT IN DIFFICULTY
IN GRENOBLE

1. MAYOR OF GRENOBLE SINCE 1965 AND SINCE 1973 DEPUTE
OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE ISERE DEPARTMENT, THE
MOST POPULATED DISTRICT OF THE ENTIRE RHONE ALPS
REGION, HUBERT DUBEDOUT, 58, IS ABOUT TO FACE HIS
TOUGHEST STRUGGLE IN NEXT WEEKS ELECTIONS. BASICALLY
IT IS PERHAPS A MATTER OF THE WEAR AND TEAR OF BEING
IN POWER TAKING ITS TOLL ON THE LEFT AS WELL AS ON
THE RIGHT BUT OTHER FACTORS ARE NOT NEGLIGEABLE.

2. DUBEDOUT S POSITION HAS BECOME MORE VULNERABLE
IN THE PAST YEAR AND HE SEEMS UNDER ATTACK FROM
MANY SIDES. HIS PARTNERS OF THE LEFT REPROACH HIM
HIS CHOICE OF SUPPLEANT OR POLITICAL STAND-IN.
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PAGE 02 LYON 00048 061715Z

HE SELECTED PROFESSOR BERNARD MONTERGNOLE WHO IS
AN ASSISTANT MAYOR TO ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL POLITICAL
ADVERSARIES, COMMUNIST MAYOR GEORGES KIOULOU OF THE
RED MUNICIPALITY OF ECHIROLLES. FORMER MODERATE SUPPORTERS
HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM HIM FOR BRINGING COMMUNISTS
INTO CITY HALL IN LAST YEAR S MUNICIPAL RACE. MOREOVER
IN CERTAIN AREAS GRENOBLE HAS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE

SETBACKS. THE VILLENEUVE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT HAS GOBBLED UP AN EXCESSIVE SHARE OF GRENOBLE S FINANCES TO THE POINT WHERE THE AVERAGE CITIZEN NOW CONSIDERS IT A HUMAN/URBAN AS WELL AS AN ELECTORAL/POLITICAL FAILURE. CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY HAVE ALSO BEEN ON THE INVREASE.

3. THE ECOLOGISTS CONTINUE TO BE PARTICULARLY VOCAL AND CRITICAL. THEY ARE CAMPAIGNING AGAIN ON THE ISSUE OF THE CREYS-MALVILLE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AND ALSO ON THEIR CHARGES OF POLLUTION OF THE CITY S GROUND WATER BY DISPOSAL OF RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE MATERIALS FROM THE NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER. DUBEDOUT TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ECOLOGISTS TO PREVENT THEM FROM RUNNING A CANDIDATE AGAINST HIM.

4. ANOTHER FACOTR OBSCURING THE OUTLOOK IN GRENOBLE IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE ELECTORATE S ATTENTION BY THE MULTIPLICITY OF CAMPAIGNS AND CANDIDATES. NO LESS THAN ELEVEN CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING AGAINST DUBEDOUT. THE LEADING MAJORITY CANDIDATE IS ALAIN CARIGNON, R.P.R. THIS YOUNG AND DYNAMIC GAULLIST, 29, WHO HAS BEEN A TIRELESS ADVERSARY OF THE LEFTIST LEADERSHIP SINCE 1971 AND WHO WON A GENERAL COUNSELOR S SEAT IN THE 1976 CANTONAL ELECTIONS, MIGHT JUST PULL AHEAD IN THIS INPREDICTABLE SITUATION.

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PAGE 03 LYON 00048 061715Z

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